

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-32 Cancelled

33. (Currently Amended) A system facilitating uploading of digital images from a ~~newly-purchased~~ digital camera, the system comprising:

- ~~a digital camera for capturing digital images;~~
- a Web site for hosting said digital images captured by the digital camera;
- a transport mechanism for uploading the digital images from the digital camera to a user account at the Web site, said user account being pre-provisioned for the digital camera; and
- a module for automatically associating the digital images uploaded to the Web site with the pre-provisioned user account and thereafter providing on-line access to the digital images, without requiring a user to manually set up the user account.

34. (Original) The system of claim 33, wherein said digital camera employs a cellular phone for wirelessly uploading the digital images.

35. (Original) The system of claim 34, wherein said digital camera and said cellular phone are selectively coupled to one another.

36. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 33, wherein ~~said digital camera~~ includes a module that generates a unique device ID associated with the digital camera

that is used for associating the digital images camera with the user account that has been ~~pre-provisioned for digital images uploaded from the digital camera.~~

37-39. Cancelled

40. (Original) The system of claim 33, further comprising: ~~wherein said system includes~~

a provisioning information module that generates a unique device ID that is used by an accounting management module for associating the digital images with a particular cellular phone device used by the digital camera to upload digital images.

41. (Original) The system of claim 33, wherein said Web site receives digital images as they are uploaded.

42. (Original) The system of claim 33, wherein said Web site continues to store digital images that are uploaded for some period of time.

43. (Original) The system of claim 33, wherein said Web site provides on-line access to the digital images.

44. (Original) The system of claim 33, wherein said digital camera includes connectivity to a cellular phone, for uploading digital images.

45. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 33, wherein said digital camera includes wireless communication capability.

46. (Original) The system of claim 33, wherein said transport mechanism comprises a wireless communication network.

47. (Original) The system of claim 33, further comprising:
a database at the Web site for maintaining the uploaded digital images along with an associated unique device ID for the images.

48. (Original) The system of claim 33, further comprising:
a module allowing a user to specify a user name and password for the user account that has been pre-provisioned.

49. (Original) The system of claim 33, wherein online access to the digital images is predicated upon user input of a valid user name and password.

Claims 50-53 Cancelled

54. (New) An apparatus for automating activation of a user account associated with a user-operated device, the method comprising:
a Web site to host user data transferred by the user-operated device;

a transport mechanism to enable uploading of the user data from the user-operated device to a user account at the Web site, the user account being pre-provisioned for the user-operated device; and

a module for automatically associating the user data uploaded to the Web site with the pre-provisioned user account based on a unique device ID, and thereafter providing on-line access to the user data, such that the user need not manually establish the user account at the Web site.

55. (New) The apparatus of claim 54, wherein the user-operated device is selected from among the following: a digital camera, a cellular telephone, a cellular telephone periodically coupled to a digital camera, and a cellular telephone including a digital camera.

56. (New) The apparatus of claim 54, wherein the user-operated device has a unique device ID that is used for associating the user-operated device with the user account that has been pre-provisioned for the user data.

57. (New) The apparatus of claim 54, further comprising:
a provisioning information module to generate a unique device ID that is used by an accounting management module for associating the user-operated device with the user account.

58. (New) The apparatus of claim 54, further comprising:

a buffer to temporarily store the user data prior to determining the user account associated with the unique device ID.

59. (New) The apparatus of claim 54, further comprising:

a database at the Web site for maintaining the uploaded user data along with an associated unique device ID for the images.

60. (New) The apparatus of claim 54, further comprising:

a security module to allow a user to specify a user name and password for the user account that has been pre-provisioned.

61. (New) A system to enable automatic provisioning of a new user account comprising:

a receiving logic to receive data from a peripheral device having a unique device ID, the data destined for storage on a repository on the system;

an account management module to automatically establish a user account, including creating a user identifier (ID) based, at least in part, on said unique device ID assigned to the user-operated device;

a media gateway to associate the data with said user ID;

such that an account is automatically created for the owner of the peripheral device, without requiring the user to first set up a user account.

62. (New) The system of claim 54, further comprising:

the media gateway to query the peripheral device for the unique device ID in response to receiving the data.

63. (New) A method facilitating uploading of user data from a user-operated device, the method comprising:

receiving a transfer request from a peripheral device having a unique device ID, to transfer data to a Web site;

determining if there is a user account associated with the unique device ID, and if so, associating the user data with the user account;

if there is no user account associated with the unique device ID, establishing a user account automatically at the particular Web site, including creating a user identifier (ID) based, at least in part, on said unique device ID assigned to the user-operated device.

64. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein the user-operated device is selected from among the following: a digital camera, a cellular telephone, a cellular telephone periodically coupled to a digital camera, and a cellular telephone including a digital camera.

65. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein establishing the user account occurs upon receiving a first transfer request from the user-operated device.

66. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein establishing the user account occurs prior to first operation of the user-operated device.

67. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein said user account is established using provisioning procedure to associate the user account with a unique device ID assigned to the user-operated device.

68. (New) The method of claim 63, further comprising:
determining whether the user-operated device is an authorized device prior to storing the images on the Web site..

69. (New) The method of claim 63, further comprising:
temporarily saving the user data in a buffered storage module until the user data is determined to be associated with a particular user account.

70. (New) The method of claim 69, wherein said content temporarily saved in the buffered image storage module is transferred to an image storage-by-account module in an image repository after the content is determined to be associated with a particular user account.

71. (New) The method of claim 63, further comprising:

having a user account ticket, generated, at least in part, from the device ID of the user-operated device, the user account ticket used for initially establishing the user account.